Novel Files $10 Million Garrison Suit

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Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and the publishers of Playboy Magazine have been sued for $10 million for alleged libel by former New Orleans bar operator Gordon Novel.

Novel, 29, who now lives in Columbus, Ohio, has been called a "most important" witness by Garrison in the probe of the John F. Kennedy assassination.

In his Federal District Court suit in Chicago he charges that Playboy printed comments in an interview with Garrison that were "false and misleading." The interview caused him irreparable damage, said Novel.

Last May Novel filed a $50 million suit in Federal Court here against Garrison and members of Truth and Consequences Inc., an organization helping the Kennedy probe financially. However, he withdrew this action rather than return to New Orleans and give a deposition in the case.

Novel, former operator of the Jamaican Village, was represented in Chicago by Elmer Gertz, who also served as attorney for the late Jack Ruby, who shot Lee Harvey Oswald, accused Kennedy assassin.

Recently Novel testified before the Baton Rouge Grand Jury investigating allegations of organized crime in Louisiana, after being granted immunity from arrest. Garrison had sought unsuccessfully to extradite him in connection with an alleged conspiracy to burglarize a Houma munitions building.